

dez landed in Porto Rico, after taking in fresh supplies at Hispaniola on his way. He here enrolled forty-three men, and learned that Mr. de Ribaut had outstripped him; but that it was perceived that that commander had amused himself for over two months in different places on the Florida coast.<sup>1</sup>

Menendez then found himself reduced to a third part of his force, and most of his soldiers were without any experience; but, as all his officers were men of resolution, he called a council of war, to which he represented that he was led into this expedition neither by interest nor ambition, but purely by zeal for God's glory; that the Almighty, by permitting only five vessels of the fleet with which he had left Teneriffe to keep him company, seemed to desire that the success of so glorious an expedition should be attributed only to the invincible power of his arm. His opinion, therefore, was, that they should sail without further delay to Florida, where he hoped to surprise the heretics before the expected re-enforcements reached them, and thus gain a complete victory over them.

He, nevertheless, requested the opinion of the council on his resolution. The maestro del campo, Peter de Valdez, his son-in-law, spoke first, and concurred with him. Most of the others coincided; but some, headed by Captain John de San Vicente, who meditated passing to Peru or Mexico, set forth that to attempt to carry out the enterprise rashly with his small force,<sup>2</sup> was to expose himself to an evident risk of failure. At last, however, as they saw the majority persist in the contrary opinion, they made a show of yielding.

The adelantado, full of joy, set sail again, and on the 28th of August came in sight of Florida.<sup>3</sup> His difficulty was to know whether he was north or south of the French;

<sup>1</sup> Barcia, p. 69; Mendoza, pp. 165-181. Letter to the King, Parkman, p. 96.

<sup>2</sup> Five hundred soldiers, two hundred sailors, one hundred colonists. <sup>3</sup> Mendoza in Ternaux's *Recueil*, p. 193; Barcia, p. 70.